

# STATEHOOD

## WHAT IT BRINGS

### Unanswerable Reasons Why the Constitution Should Be Adopted.

#### A State Government Will Greatly Reduce the Rate of Taxation. Nevada Fully Demonstrates This.—Montana's Rapid Development Under Home Rule.

The question of Statehood is now one that is attracting considerable attention in Arizona, and all propositions bearing on this subject are of vital interest to the people. Statehood—what does this mean, and what result will follow its achievement?

When men are called upon to make radical changes, particularly in forms of government, they always make haste slowly. The citizens of Arizona, many of whom have lived under a Territorial form of government for fifteen years, are desirous of knowing what advantages they will obtain under a State government, and what good results will follow Statehood. To begin with, an independent government where the people govern, was the dream and hope of the founders of this Republic, and upwards of one hundred years of national prosperity has fully demonstrated their wisdom in this particular. Self-government—representation in everything pertaining thereto—is dear to every American heart, and to this end we shall endeavor to secure the endorsement of the people of Arizona for our Constitution.

Our aim and desire is to place before intelligent citizens of Arizona the many advantages we believe will accrue from our admission into the Union. First, from a stand-point of economy; second, from a desire we all feel for a better system of government and a reduction of taxation; third, for the better development of our vast resources, the upbuilding of Arizona and inducements to settlers to make homes within our borders. That all this can be better accomplished under State than Territorial government is what we shall endeavor to show, at the outset.

No one will deny that the only possible argument that can be brought against changing from Territorial to State government is the increased expenditure attending the change, because any intelligent citizen prefers independence to dependency. Hence the only impediment in the pathway of Statehood is expense. Remove this bugaboo and the desire is unanimous.

Now let us look carefully over the situation. To begin with, the presumption is strong in the minds of the average man that the government supports a Territory—that all bills are paid by the government, and when Statehood is mentioned this proposition confronts the supporter of the measure; yet the high rates of taxation existing in Territories, the rapidly increasing burdens and responsibilities of taxpayers, the questionable credit enjoyed by them, the difficulty experienced in funding a Territorial debt, or disposing of their obligations in the financial centers of the nation; all tend to show that this system of government is faulty.

A careful compilation of the monies paid in support of our Territory by the general Government gives the following result: Amount paid the Governor as salary, \$2,600 per annum; Secretary of the Territory, \$1,800; four Judges, \$12,000; Private Secretary of the Governor, \$600; for contingent expenses of the Chief Executive, \$500; this makes \$17,500. Now add to this \$13,125, which is allowed annually for rents, printing, defraying the expenses of the Legislature (as salaries of members, clerks, etc.) and it foots up a sum total paid by the general Government in support of our Territory, of \$30,625 per annum.

This is the price paid for our servitude—this is the munificent sum that stands in the highway of Arizona's development—this is what is given us in return for the questionable privilege of governing us by proxy. Are the people of Arizona willing to longer submit to this method of government for such a paltry sum? Putting this at its worst, it only means that to meet this deficiency of \$30,000, only a tax of one mill would be required, or one dollar to every \$1000 on taxable property; this, we say, is putting it at its worst—but we claim, and shall prove, that it will not require any additional tax; and, on the contrary, a reduction of taxation will follow the admission of Arizona as a State. This is true of Montana, the two Dakotas and Wyoming, and why will it not also follow in Arizona?

The reports of the governors of the States above mentioned show phenomenal growth in every branch of industry during the first year of Statehood. A brief reference to the first annual report of Governor Joseph K. Toole, of the State of Montana, discloses this pleasing condition of affairs. On page four he says:

"A year ago our total assessment was \$79,376,944; to-day, as will be seen by exhibit 'A' of this report, it is \$112,457,555, or an increase of valuation of \$33,080,611 in one year of Statehood. One year ago our mineral output was \$24,012,000, this year it is \$47,848,000, or an increase in one year under Statehood's protecting laws of \$23,836,000 in the mineral output of Montana. One year ago the number of horses, cattle and sheep in Montana was 1,881,268, this year it is 2,364,826, or an increase of nearly 600,000 head of stock in one year of Statehood rule. One year ago the number of pounds of wool produced in Montana was 4,111,907, the past year it reached 7,023,134, an increase in the wool clip in one year of Statehood of nearly 3,000,000 pounds. One year ago the number of bushels of coal mined in Montana was 907,500, the past year of home rule it reached the enormous yield of 17,612,000 bushels, or 629,200 tons, an increase in one year under State laws of upwards of 16,000,000 bushels. One year ago the number of miles of railroad in the State was 2,043, now it is 2,365 miles, or an increase of 322 miles to the credit of one year of Statehood. One year ago the revenue collected from all sources in the Territory was \$149,316.70, this year, after one year of Statehood, the amount collected was \$309,429.23, making an increase in favor of twelve months of Statehood of \$159,000. Quartz mills increased some thirty in number the first year, while every avenue of industry responded to the welcome change of self-government."

Can any unbiased, fair minded man read the wonderful increase in commercial importance, wealth and national greatness of the new State of Montana, gained by one year of Statehood, as told by her able Governor, J. K. Toole, and then lift up his voice against Arizona's admission? As a mineral producing Territory, Arizona stands unequalled and without a rival, as her every hill is impregnated with this precious product; while her fertile valleys, in a productive capacity are unsurpassed. If Montana, with her sterile hills, barren acres and bleak winters, can receive such an impetus from self-government—if her wise and protective State regulations can send her bounding forward in her march of progress—if State laws judiciously administered can double her mineral product in one year, and increase her tax roll \$33,000,000, what, we ask, in fairness, will a like condition accomplish for peerless Arizona? It is an unanswerable fact that the great strides made in Montana during her one year of Statehood—her phenomenal increase of bullion, coal, cattle, railroad building, revenue and assessment roll—are wholly due to the accruing benefits of Statehood, as with self-government came confidence in the financial ability of the State to meet its every obligation, and discharge them with fidelity, and the better protection of capital in its many channels of industry.

The history of Montana is the history of every other State in the Union; even Nevada, which is being held up as a "terrible example," is far in the lead of Arizona in everything pertaining to economy in government. This sage-brush commonwealth, that has served as a butt for every congressional joker for the past ten years, with its population of 44,000,

and \$23,000,000 assessment roll, presents a record in taxation that should shake the faith of the men who are opposing the admission of Arizona. Nevada has fourteen counties within her State lines, which contain 110,700 square miles; yet, notwithstanding this enormous area of country to govern, her rates of taxation are far below Arizona's. Yes, Nevada, that is held up as a warning against "presumptuous" young Territories seeking admission to the Union, maintains her position as a sovereign State at a ratio of taxation more than one-third less than is required to carry on a Territorial government in Arizona.

The average rate of taxation of the eleven counties in Arizona, as shown by Governor Murphy's last report to the Interior Department, is \$3.28, while Nevada, with her fourteen counties, and one-third less population and assessable property, maintains her State government with an average of *Two Dollars and Five and One-Half Cents*, as is shown by the State Treasurer's last report. Despite the prophesies of the men who jeer at Nevada's pretensions to Statehood, her financial condition is to-day much superior to that of Arizona; this, too, in the face of the fact that Arizona has twenty-fold the resources and capabilities of Nevada.

In comparing and examining the conditions of this Territory and the State mentioned, it becomes painfully apparent that there is something radically wrong in a system of government that collects three dollars and twenty-eight cents from each one hundred dollars of the \$30,000,000 assessment roll, to maintain a Territorial government, when Nevada can defray the entire running expenses of a State government on a tax levy of two dollars and five and one-half cents on a \$23,000,000 assessment roll.

Governor Bell, of Nevada, in his biennial message to the State Legislature one year ago, has the following in reference to the financial condition of the State: On page one, he says:

"The total debt of the State up to January, 1891, was \$199,887.83; there is in the State Treasury, applicable to the payment of this debt, \$215,849.52, or *\$15,961.69 above all indebtedness*. Our University Fund has to its credit awaiting its disposition, \$88,000, and in all other respects is in a very prosperous and satisfactory condition. The condition of our public schools is prosperous. Every child in the State may secure an education free. The State School Fund contains \$972,000 in bonds; \$380,000 being five per cent. bonds, and the balance four per cents, besides \$88,113.13 in coin. The General School Fund contains cash to the amount of \$24,201.57, a total credit of \$1,084,314.57, which is certainly a very creditable showing."

Here we find despised little Nevada with a cash balance in her School Fund of *Over One Million Dollars*, and a surplus in her State Treasury of \$16,000. Nevada collects from her \$23,000,000 assessment roll, annually, \$472,650, which defrays all her State and County expenses, and leaves a surplus in her State Treasury, while Arizona collects, annually, from her eleven Counties as follows:

Apache County	\$ 79,373.42
Cochise County	104,373.42
Cocouino County	62,700.00
Gila County	45,823.16
Graham County	54,091.11
Mohave County	47,714.48
Maricopa County	157,021.38
Pima County	127,948.98
Pinal County	63,171.98
Yavapai County	121,024.13
Yuma County	35,176.81

Making a total collection of \$908,073.84. Add to this an annual deficit of \$126,000, making an annual expenditure \$1,034,073.84, which the tax-payers of Arizona are called upon each and every year to pay for the questionable privilege of living under a Territorial form of government, while Nevada maintains her State and county governments for \$472,650 per annum. In other words, Arizona pays \$1,034,073.84 annually to support her Territory, leaving a balance in favor of Nevada's State government of \$561,423.84 per annum. Thus Arizona, for the privilege of being a Territory and receiving the beggarly sum of \$30,625, which the Government expends annually with us, extracts from the pockets of her tax-payers the enormous sum of *\$561,423.84!*

The only reasonable conclusion from this is that it costs less to maintain a State government than a Territorial—this, in our opinion, comes from the fact that the theory of Territorial forms of government are wrong, and the machinery of State is necessary to an economical administration of affairs.

When the mantle of authority falls upon a people, and they are required to be self-sustaining, that spirit of carelessness so apparent in all Territorial government at once disappears, and care and diligence are exercised instead. Is this not fully exemplified in the progress, growth and development of Montana, Wyoming and the two Dakotas? As soon as these political divisions were permitted to don the garb of Statehood and disengage themselves from the parent government, their assessment rolls began to swell with a rapidity unknown to the records of Territorial serfdom.

Twenty-eight years ago Arizona was fashioned into a Territory—now let us see what has been accomplished during this long period of years under Territorial rule, that would lead thinking people to wish to continue it. First, nearly one thousand million dollars has been donated by Congress to the various States for the purpose of improving their condition, *but not one dollar all those years has been given to Arizona*. This munificent sum has been scattered broadcast throughout the States of the Union, and the Territories that were struggling for an existence on the borders of civilization were ignored and neglected. Does it need further argument to demonstrate the fact that governmental favors are distributed in the nature of reciprocity. Maine will vote for Rhode Island and Rhode Island will vote for Maine, and so on as long as funds are available; but a Territory, without any reciprocal powers, without any voice or vote in Congress, can wait with outstretched hands till the end of time without recognition. Now does it not behoove our citizens to bestir themselves and attain a position where recognition is to be obtained? This can only be secured by our admission to the Union, where our Congressman and Senators can and will secure their proportionment of the wealth that flows constantly into the coffers of the Nation. Again, Arizona will send two silver Senators to represent us and help us to secure proper silver laws, thus enabling the mining industry to develop and prosper as it never will or can under a Territorial government.

As before mentioned in this article, the expense of maintaining a government seems to be the paramount issue—if a State government can be had with a slight additional expense the people desire it—but if it will, as some interested parties declare, bring bankruptcy and disaster in its train, then we do not want it. Arizona has been a Territory upwards of twenty-seven years, and has given the system of Territorial government a thorough test, and what has been the result of this trial of over a quarter of a century? This is what we find: Notwithstanding the enormous taxes levied and collected in Arizona during this long period of years, to-day we are confronted with a debt of \$3,329,680.49, and nothing but a few delapidated Court Houses and the Insane Asylum to show for this enormous debt. Can any form of government be worse? Is it not a fact that any known system of civilized government would be an improvement upon this wasteful and destructive method? A system of government that has expended all the vast revenue collected in Arizona the past twenty seven years at the high ratio of taxation existing, and piled up a deficit of \$126,000 per annum is not worthy of the further support or confidence of the taxpayers of Arizona.

We ask the thinking people of Arizona to study well the situation before they permit themselves to stand in the sunlight of our progress, and seek to defeat the adoption of the Constitution. Study well the cause and effect. That the instrument is perfect no one claims; it would be folly to so assert. It was prepared with care and an effort to protect the interests of every citizen within our borders, and deal honorably by every industry. Its shortcomings, if any exist, will be speedily remedied when ascertained. The welfare of our people and the hopes of Arizona depend upon the good judgment exercised by our voters in dealing with this question.

Statehood, we firmly believe, is the golden link in the long chain of Arizona's progress that will couple her to the car of success. So let us profit by the example of the forty-four States of the American Union, and aid to the best of our ability to place our queenly Arizona side by side with this phalanx of wealth and power, as one of the sovereign States of the Republic.